The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and official interpretations of matters affecting labor contained in the bills, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 24, 1932, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912.

Give to Your Community Chest!

WHOLE NO. 2014 WILLIAM GREEN, *President* WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1949 GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer* VOL. 39, NO. 46

AFL Members Win Largest Back Pay Award

Los Angeles.—Demonstrating how AFL unions serve their members and the workers they represent, Jack M. Helsley and John T. Howard of Operating Engineers Local 12 receive checks totaling $1,265.25 from Samuel Kaliah, California Deputy Labor Commissioner, for back pay illegally withheld under the company's wage scale. The Los Angeles Decomposed Granite Co. The claims were the largest ever settled by the Los Angeles office of the California State Labor Commissioner. Mrs. (Lee) Miller (left) business representative of Local 12, looks on as Mr. Kaliah hands check to Mr. Howard. Between Mr. Kaliah and Mr. Howard are Mr. Helsey and Mrs. Howard. After tax deductions, Mr. Howard's check amounted to $1,213.19 and Mr. Helsey's to $1,213.19. The cases were pressed to their successful conclusion by Business Representative Miller.

Labor's League Drive For $$ Rolls Ahead

Receipts in Mail For 2,000,000 Gifts for '50 Election Fight

Washington.—Labor's League for Political Education has already mailed more than 2,000,000 receipts to local unions for contributions of $2 or more from each American Federation of Labor member to help win a liberal Congress in 1950.

The league said that 30 international unions have already furnished these lists of local unions but that 38 are still to be heard from. Headquarters is here the big job will be completed by January 1 and will if the delayed lists arrive.

Some contributions have already begun to roll into league headquarters from local secretaries who have completed their canvasses of membership rolls. The goal is $2 from every member with one-half of the money to be returned to the state and local leagues.

The league's national committee meeting at St. Paul last October said that repeal of the Taft-Hartley law and passage of legislation to advance the interests of all the people can only be realized through a comprehensive program of political action.

"The vital importance of the drive for voluntary contributions cannot be overemphasized," the league said. "The ultimate success of this drive for campaign contributions will depend entirely on the participation and contributions of our membership."

The whole 1950 campaign must be conducted with voluntary contributions because of the Taft-Hartley amendments to the Federal Corrupt Practices Act. Unions formerly could be used.

Every contributer receives a blue button with the letters "LLPE" printed in white.

GOT A BLUE BUTTON?

Washington.—A tapel button of blue with "LLPE" in white marks a contributor to Labor's League for Political Education to elect a liberal Congress in 1950. It's cheap at $2.

Have you wearin' a blue button, brother?

New Jersey Voters Re-Elect Hermann

Newark, N. J.—Lewis M. Hermann, publisher of the New Jersey Labor Herald, was returned to the New Jersey legislature by voters of Essex county with the highest vote of any candidate in the county.

Mr. Hermann, who is secretary-treasurer of the International Labor Press Association, won another term by a majority of 40,000 votes.

His victory was one of the most impressive among those scored by members of AFL unions in national, state and local elections. Mr. Hermann is a member of the International Typographical Union.

START LIPE CANVASS

Moline, Ill.—Cliff Carney, president of the Tri-City Federation of Labor, announced that appeals for contributions to Labor's League for Political Education had gone out to 50,000 AFL members in the Quad Cities area.

TO FORM ILLINOIS LLPE

Springfield, Ill.—Joseph D. Keenan, director of Labor's League for Political Education, has accepted an invitation to address the organization meeting of the Illinois LLPE called for Dec. 3 by the Illinois Federation of Labor.

Election Results Help Fair Deal League Reports

Washington.—Labor's League for Political Education of the AFL said that election results in 1949 "clearly mean that "Congress will be more likely to vote for the social welfare program of the Fair Deal after it reconvenes in January."

"State legislatures and local governing bodies will be more likely to approve measures for the betterment of workers, farmers, small business men, children, the aged and the physically handicapped," the League Reporter said in analyzing the returns.

The league said that Sen. H. Leverman to the Senate from New York; Gov. Frank J. Lausche, Ohio, and John F. Shelley, of San Francisco, to the House of Representatives, all three of them backed by AFL's political league.

In addition, candidates and issues in local and state elections supported by the AFL and liberal forces won an impressive string of victories. Defeats were registered in Texas where repeal of the poll tax was lost, Ohio where the defeat in election procedures favorable to Sen. Robert A. Taft was registered, and in New Jersey where Elmer Wene supported by the AFL Labor governor was beaten.

The League Reporter said that the Labor victory in New York proved:

1. Supporting a progressive program for the welfare of all the people will help win an election.

2. Opposition to repeal of the Taft-Hartley act will help win an election.

3. Cooperation between and among farmer-labor groups and of other liberals will help win an election.

4. Getting citizens registered and to the polls will help liberals win an election.

Dissatisfied CIO Locals Seek AFL

Washington.—Dissatisfied electrical workers weary of the internal disunity in the CIO are seeking out AFL organizers in many places to help obtain good contracts, American trade union representation in dealing with employers.

Harry O'Reilly, AFL director of organizing, said that AFL representatives in Chicago, Cleveland, other parts of the country have already been scounded out by the CIO union-busting raid on the bitter battle between the right and left wing of the CIO leadership.

The CIO convention expelled the United Electrical Workers, led by officers sympathetic to the Communist Party, and chartered a new International Union of Electrical Workers by CIO right-wingers.

At least four of the anticommunist locals for the former CIO union have already taken steps to affiliate with AFL unions and others are reported to have made serious feelers.

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers of the AFL said that it has received several inquiries about affiliation.

AFL Selects Edwards For New Radio Series

Noted Liberal Begins Five Nights a Week Newscast Jan. 2

Washington.—Frank Edwards, one of the outstanding liberals on the air, has been engaged as commentator for the American Federation of Labor's new, nation-wide radio program which will be broadcast 5 nights a week over the Mutual network beginning Jan. 2.

Edwards brings to the microphone a versatile radio news background of more than 24 years and a vivid personality which has made top popularity ratings in his latest assignment at Indianapolis. Although sponsored by a business concern there, his consistent support of liberal causes and his aggressive campaign against the Taft-Hartley Act won him a wide following among Midwest newspapers.

His broadcasts for the AFL will originate from Washington and will be aired over a network of 147 stations from 10:15 to 10:30 p.m., EST. (A complete list of the stations on the network and the local time when this program will be heard will be published as soon as it can be confirmed.)

Edwards was chosen to serve as the AFL's news commentator after a series of auditions by several better known newscasters because of his effective radio style and his crusading spirit for progressive objectives. It is expected that he will soon become one of the most popular commentators on the air.

To accustom radio audiences to

AFL COMMENTATOR

FRANK EDWARDS

Who will be heard five nights a week over the Mutual Broadcasting System's new hookup reporting the American Federation of Labor view of the news.

listening to Edwards at 10 p.m., EST, the AFL network plans to start him on that spot on a sustaining basis beginning the Monday following Friday until the AFL program takes over on the same time beginning Jan. 2.

Edwards started his radio career as a special events broadcaster but his unusual ability to do the job "story behind the story" prompted him to switch over after to news reporting and then commentaries.

Edwards, a native of Indiana, has traveled far and wide tracking down news developments, visiting nearly 50 countries. Places in Europe, Alaska, Sumatra, Australia, South Africa, Norway and most of South American nations in quest of radio headlines. An expert newsreel photographer, he has shot many films to illustrate his radio broadcasts and won him popularity in the Midwest.

Fearless in his presentation of the truth and completely independent in his point of view, Edwards is expected to provide a refreshing contrast to the regular run of commentators, most of whom lean to the reactionary side of public issues. Certainly, he will offer a colorful and interesting new personality on the air.

AFL Drivers Win 2 Wage Increases

Chicago.—The Central States Drivers Council of the AFL Teamsters Union won 2 wage increases and an employer-financed welfare and benefit program in a new 26-month contract signed with employers in 11 states.

The 40,000 AFL teamsters covered by the agreement received an increase of 5 cents an hour and one-fourth of 1 per mile effective November 16. On January 1, 1951, they will receive an additional 5 cents an hour and one-eighth of a mile.

The 3,000 employers agreed to pay $1 per man hour into welfare and pension health and welfare program for the life of the new 26-month contract. The agreement covers drivers in Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas.

SOAP CAMPAIGN EXTENDED

New York.—Endorsements of the Care Soap campaign by top labor leaders are impetus to the drive to collect enough soap to wash seas abroad, get soap to war-ravaged areas abroad, Irving Brown, executive director of Care, said. More than 1,000,000 bars have already been shipped and the campaign extended until Dec. 15. The drive has been endorsed by Matthew Woll, AFL vice president and by presidents of the Labor League for Human Rights, and A. Philip Randolph, head of the AFL International Chemical Workers Union.

Labor Vote Elected Lehman In New York Preview of '50

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Labor News Service

New York.—One of the post-election mysteries in this area is what kind of political mastermind dreamed of political success in this socially-advanced city when he ran a candidate for governor on a "hillbilly welfare state."

The second post-election mystery is what are the reactionaries and Taft-Hartley lovers going to do for new slogans in the next couple of years now that they've lost 2 elections in a row—the presidential race in 1948 and the senatorial race on last Nov. 8.

There is no question in anybody's mind—politician, experts, journalists or defeated candidates—that Governor Lehman's stunning victory over Senator John Foster Dulles, Republican, strongly due to the united efforts of organized labor in this state. Governor Lehman ran on a platform which called for repeal of the Taft-Hartley law and for such measures as would further the interests of the people and labor. Senator Dulles ran on a platform that "the people" was good enough for the 18th century was good enough for the people of today. The result that in the people were convinced that Dulles was not good enough for the place of former Senator Wagner, retired labor leader Mr. Lehman.

The election statistics for this state are startling, except for a disaster like Mr. Dulles, that you can't win in this state unless you have labor and liberal support. Take the Republican party line-up down to defeat once again, are asking whether, to use an old GOP slogan, it isn't time for a change in the leadership.

Mayor William O'Dwyer can't feel guilt for his victory to the AFL-CIO political machine, plagued for him. Similarly, Governor Lehman, who of conspiracy to overthrow officeholder of the Communist party. Brown, had to overcome tough competition, but the Democratic machine was able to do so because behind his candidacy there was virtually complete unity in the ranks of labor, made it clear that he knew where his strength was.

One of the most important aspects of Earl Brown, Negro labor journalist from Life Magazine, was appointed by Communist Benjamin Davis, Jr., convicted who ran with full support of 3 parties, in the Harlem district, is already being talked about as the candidate to beat Rep. Vito Marcantonio, Communist-ALP boss, and leader of the Communist American Labor party in New York City did surprisingly in the election.

At this writing, it is believed that not a single candidate of major rank who ran with united labor-liberal support was defeated in his bid. It is believed certain that the local unity efforts on the political front among all segments of labor will continue next year. It sure paid off.

AFL Union Wins $9,000,000 Gain Under Best Insurance Contract

Washington.—The AFL National Federal Labor Insurance Agency Council won $7,000,000 more pay annually and $2,000,000 vacation allowances payable immediately for 16,000 workers in the insurance industry in 35 states and the District of Columbia.

Terms of the new contract were announced by George E. Bunyan, director of the Insurance Agents' Council, at the close of day and night negotiating sessions of hard bargaining.

The AFL union's contract ever negotiated to any union with any of the 3 biggest insurance companies, Mr. E. Russ said.

The AFL union was certified as bargaining representative for the workers by the NLRB after defeating the leftish-led United Office and Professional Workers of the CIO in a National Labor Relations Board election by a vote of 2 to 1 in mid-1949.

Harry O'Reilly, AFL director of organizing said that the contract is proof of superiority of AFL representation in the field and a reward for years of intensive efforts to win bargaining rights for workers in the insurance companies.

Mr. Russ said the new contract calls for increases in compensation ranging from $1 weekly, which will cost the Prudential company $7,000,000 annually, to $5 weekly when the raise was fixed as Sept. 19, 1949, and the raises will run until Sept. 1, 1951.

In addition the agents will receive $2,000,000 immediately in the form of a special vacation allowance for 1949 ranging from $125 to $138 each. The contract contains provisions for improved employe service benefits, grievance machinery, arbitration and dues checkoff also.

AFL Meat Cutters Follow Swift Pact

Chicago.—The Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America of the AFL has indicated that it will follow the pattern being packinghouse wage agreements with Swift & Co. by accepting the same the benefits contained in our new Swift contract, Patrick E. Gorman, secretary-treasurer said.

The instructions were sent in a letter to all locals by Butcher Workmen President Earl W. Jimerson and Secretary-Treasurer Patrick E. Gorman.

The Swift contract continued in effect the company pension plan, in operation since the union's inception, and provided for a 10 cent an hour increase in wages effective November 21.

Retroactive to Sept. 12, 1949, the agreement provided bracket wage increases ranging from one-half to 15 cents an hour for all workers except those receiving more than $1.75 an hour. A vacation after 15 years service is provided for in the agreement, a pay increase per hour for all workers, and differentials in Occupational differentials in Oconto, Marinette, Peshtigo, Waterown, S. D.; Montgomery, Ala.

WANT TO STUDY ABROAD?

Washington.—AFL officials call attention to the Nov. 30 closing date for applications for scholarships to study labor and adult education at colleges in the United Kingdom for the 1950-51 academic year.

Members interested in the four scholarships available under the Fulbright program administered by the U. S. State Department should write to Institute of International Education, 2 West 45th St., New York 19, N. Y., for eligibility requirements and application forms.

Priority Demanded For Air Line Trips

By DAN SMYTH
Chicago Correspondent
AFL News Service

Chicago.—David L. Behncke, president of the AFL Air Line Pilots Association, demanded that commercial airline traffic should be given priority over all other kinds of flying in the interest of safety.

(In Washington, Behncke's union submitted a set of recommendations detailing its views on the same day that the Civil Aeronautics Administration said it would assume control over all Navy and Air Force flights in the present recurrence of the Washington Airport mid-air crash which killed 55 persons in the nation's worst flying tragedy.)

"Traffic problems are daily becoming more acute," Behncke said, "because of the ever increasing speeds of —speeds that have climbed to 300 mph and are fast moving into the 500 mph range. The increase in the number of scheduled aircraft, which are also growing faster and less maneuverable, is also added to the hazard.

Behncke said all aircraft carrying more than five passengers be equipped with a uniform marking easily legible during daylight hours and running lights for night travel should have a distinct pattern and special flashing characteristics.

"Airline passengers pay to get to their destinations quickly and safely," he said. "They have a right to expect that part of the nation's commerce. All other aircraft are not on schedule and most of the time are just up there flying around.

"They should not be permitted to use the airways during the takeoff and the landing areas that are roadways in the skies for regularly-scheduled air lines.

The so-called stacking of aircraft and confusion in the traffic pattern over busy fields like Washington National Airport could be relieved by diversion of aircraft. Planes other than scheduled commercial flights should be diverted and required to land or 'hold' 500 miles out till air lanes have landed or cleared the airport on takeoff."

The union is supporting legislation pending in the Senate and House of Representatives to reestablish the Independent Air Safety Board to have sole responsibility for national air safety. Behncke urged public support of the measures.

"The time for further delay," he said, "will be more deplorable and needless loss of human life."

Congress Study Backs AFL View On Education Aid

Washington.—The AFL demand for federal grants in deserving children to complete high school and college education was given unexpectedly strong support by a congressional subcommittee.

Finding that almost one-third of the nation receives less than $2,000 annual income, the subcommittee of the Joint Committee on the Economic Report said that "lack of education for a better-paying occupation appears as an important factor in low income."

"Low incomes result from lack of education and lack of education for the next generation comes largely from low incomes of the present, a process which tends to stratify the population," the report said.

"Public financing assistance should be diverted and required to land or 'hold' 500 miles out till air lanes have landed or cleared the airport on takeoff."

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Bengough Heads Canadian Group

Ottawa, Canada.—Percy Bengough, president of the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress, headed a delegation of 4 officials to the Commonwealth Labor Conference meeting of the new "International Confederation of Free Trade Unions."

The Canadian congress, which maintains fraternal relations with the AFL, is composed of AFL international unions in Canada, joined national unions and federation of labor in establishing the new anti-Communist world federation.

AFL President William Green and Secretary-Treasurer George Meany headed the big AFL delegation which was scheduled to sail for London from New York on the Ile de France on Saturday, Nov. 19.

Low Income Families Seen 'Left Behind'

Congress Study Says Third of Nation Earns Only $2,000 a Year

Washington.—The American Federation of Labor's battle to raise annual incomes of low-paid groups was given a big boost by a special congressional committee study.

A subcommittee of the Joint Committee on the Economic Report found that almost one-third of the nation receives an income of $2,000 a year or less. It said these families "have been left behind in the economic progress of America."

"They do not have many of the products considered symbolic of the American standard of living," it said. "These families would buy a larger proportion of the goods produced by the economic capacity of the nation if they had the purchasing ability to buy."

The conclusion supports the AFL position that the purchasing power of millions of the nation's low-income groups must be steadily increased to provide the essential objectives of sustained high-level employment and security.

The subcommittee said that the endless wants of American families now living on inadequate incomes constitute a great underdeveloped economic frontier—a new and expanding market for the products of American industry."

The committee planned hearings in December to determine what concrete measures can be taken to help enable these families to become a better market.

More than 8,000,000 incomes were under $1,000 and 5,000,000 under $2,000 annually. The family units include one-fifth of the nation's children.

Venezuela Labor Grateful to AFL

Washington.—AFL President William Green has received a letter of appreciation from A. Maskava Villalba, general secretary of the Confederation of Labor of Venezuela, for the resolution adopted by the AFL convention in St. Paul condemning the totalitarian governments of Venezuela and Peron.

"We consider this resolution of great importance, particularly in view of your request to the government of the United States that no economic help be given to the governments of Peron and Venezuela because of their violation of civil liberties and trade union rights," Mr. Villalba told Mr. Green.

Our condemnation of the dictatorial regimes has created a feeling of appreciation of the workers among the Venezuelan workers. We are sure that the day is not far distant when we give us all the necessary help until such time as the dictatorships in our country is obliterated and liberty and democracy are restored and trade union rights for all citizens."

Mr. Villalba reminded said that "a serious task" still remains to defeat the menacing wave of militarist and antidemocratic forces under the totalitarian banner of Peron in Argentina and the dictatorships in Peru and Venezuela.

"These reactionaries of the right have the same interests guilty of ruthlessly violating the basic democratic rights and liberties of labor.

"Your government, for the sake of its influence and prestige among the democratic peoples of the world should be well advised to show no friendship or support to these representatives and bearers of totalitarian dogmas and dangerous ideologies that are inimical to the South.

"Your government would likewise render distinguished service to our Venezuelan people if it could help orderly social progress if it would refuse to support and encourage and disapprove profiteering practices by greedy economic interests against which enable sundry demagogues to exploit discontent and misery towards the entire American people and the democratic cause."

Hatters 100 Years in Newark Hailed As Proof That Union Market Pays

Newark, N. J.—A union market is a flourishing market.

Max Zaritzky, president of the United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers of the AFL, made that statement during the celebration of Hatters Local Unions 13 and 14 in this city.

"For 100 years the hatters have been union," Mr. Zaritzky said in his greeting to the locals. "For 100 years Newark has been a union market and a flourishing market. Not only that. But during all this period there have come and gone dozens of nonunion hatting concerns. Hardly a single one of these manufacturers did not decide to run away from the union; they believed they could do better if they did not have to deal with collectively.

"The history of Locals 13 and 14 proves that they were wrong; proves that a sound union, intelligently led, is good for industry, and that while non-union shops perish, those manufacturers who deal with the union on fair and proper terms flourish."

The Newark locals were born in the days of turbulent labor history. Despite many serious setbacks, including the almost complete bankruptcy of its finances due to its support of the Danbury hatters in their famous struggle, the Newark locals are well established serving successfully the needs of the men and women in their own market.

And their trade is still a highly skilled technical craft requiring years of apprenticeship and training despite all of the many innovations and introduction of new machinery into the industry.

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
SUPPLEMENT

Give to Your Community Chest!

WILLIAM GREEN, *President* WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1949 GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer*

U. S. Pledges To Halt Illegal Texas Labor

Officials Promise Aid to AFL Unions in Rio Grande Valley

Washington. — Government officials promised a delegation of AFL unionists from Texas' Lower Rio Grande Valley that they will order stricter enforcement of immigration and federal labor laws to prevent the entrance and use of illegal "wetback" workers from Mexico.

E. C. DeBaca, AFL organizer in the valley, said the promises were given by Justice and Labor Department officials and members of Congress during a series of conferences with him and a delegation of AFL unionists from Texas.

Those who accompanied Mr. DeBaca were W. H. Burk, Harlingen, Texas, president of the Central Labor Union of the Lower Rio Grande Valley; Salvador Ochoa, Jr., Mission, Texas; Martin M. Fuentes, McAllen, Texas, and Alejandro Fuentes, Donna, Texas, all members of the Citrus Workers and Food Processors Union of the AFL, federal labor unions.

The delegation also received pledges of full AFL support from President William Green and other officers.

"The government officials promised to do everything they can for us and we feel much encouraged," Mr. DeBaca said. His group filed with each official visited a memorandum on the situation. This brief said:

"The basic industry in this region consists of enterprises dedicated to the canning and processing of fruits and vegetables. Several thousand persons are engaged as workers in this industry, unquestionably the most difficult problem that we have had to contend with has been the competition offered us by the illegal immigrants from Mexico, who for obvious reasons are compelled to work at substandard wages and under conditions bordering on peonage.

"This competition has been made possible by the connivance of local—and sometimes even federal—authorities with selfish private interests whose sole desire is to obtain labor at the cheapest rates possible in order (1) to be in an advantageous position as compared with similar industries in other sections of the country where reasonable wages are paid; and (2) to make the largest profits possible in the shortest period of time."

Mr. Burk said that many of the Mexican workers illegally in this country drift into the construction trades and are a continuing menace to the wage and work standards of that industry, passing as carpenters, tile painters for 35 cents an hour.

AFL officials said the situation is a "social problem" of importance to the entire country as well as to the labor union faithful. As a result of the unfair competition of such "wetbacks" workers, an annual exodus of native-born Latin-American workers takes place which keeps 12,000 school children out of regular classes; causes health problems and high mortality from infant paralysis and tuberculosis; and deprives the voters of their residence requirements for balloting to change offending local officials.

"There has been little or no attempt to disguise the fact that the immigration authorities have deliberately ignored existing regulations and have even encouraged the use of 'wetbacks' by fraudulent employers who were looked upon with favor by locally elected public officials," Mr. DeBaca's group told the Justice Department.

The AFL asked the government officials to:

1. Enforce rigidly all immigration laws, without fear or favoritism and that this policy be established as a permanent one by our national officials.

2. Order federal officials stationed in the Lower Rio Grande Valley to refrain from practices which permit the employer as against the worker and which, through collusion with unlocal politicians, result in the oppression of the laboring people in the social, economic or political means.

3. Conduct a congressional investigation as to all conditions existing in the valley among the working people.

4. Make certain that under no circumstances either the Congress or agents or legalized braceros be permitted by our government to operate with resident workers in the industrial field in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

GRAPES-OF-WRATH BUT IN SPANISH

Washington.—An AFL delegation from Texas' Lower Rio Grande Valley charged U. S. government officials are largely responsible for an annual migration of Spanish-speaking people in the Southwest which amounts to a "Grapes-of-Wrath-With-a-Spanish-Accent" trek.

Four of the Spanish-speaking members of the 5 AFL unionists told federal officials that the illegal entrance of Mexican laborers annually forces them to move with their families around the countryside to find work wherever they can, usually at depressed wages, without social and health safeguards for themselves and children, and with a loss of community and voting privileges.

They likened the conditions to the "Okies" in John Steinbeck's "Grapes of Wrath."

Kaiser Chats With U. S.-British Employes

Washington.—U. S. Assistant Secretary of Labor Philip M. Kaiser (right), with Mrs. Bernice Heffner (center), secretary of AFL Federation of Government Employes, chat with William D. Hopkins, member of the national executive committee of the British Union of General and Municipal Workers, during luncheon given by the latter in honor of British trade union delegates on visit here.

Valente Greets British Counterpart

Washington.—Anthony Valente (left), president of the United Textile Workers of the AFL, discusses industry problems with Charles Schofield, general secretary of the British Amalgamated Association of Operative Cotton Spinners and Twiners. Mr. Valente was one of many AFL international union presidents to greet British trade union delegation at luncheon during their visit in Washington.

Seven AFL Council Members Depart For London Parley

Britishers Wish Green Bon Voyage

Washington.—William E. Jones (left), Yorkshire area general secretary of the British National Union of Mine Workers and chairman of British trade union delegation on United States tour, chats with Lewis Carliner (center), assistant general secretary of the National Union of Operative Heating Engineers, who AFL President William Green flew to London for world trade union meeting. The three were photographed at a luncheon tendered the British unionists by the AFL officials. The two Greens are not related.

Will Help Realize Goal For Anti-Communist World Labor Body

Washington.—Seven members of the American Federation of Labor executive council, the most impressive AFL delegation ever sent abroad, departed for London to help establish a new anti-Communist world federation of free trade unions at meetings starting Nov. 22.

Most of them were scheduled to sail from New York on Saturday, Nov. 19, aboard the French liner Ile de France, due at Plymouth, England, on Friday, Nov. 25, the day before Thanksgiving.

The AFL delegation included:

President William Green and Secretary-Treasurer George Meany.

Vice Presidents Matthew Woll of the Photo-Engravers; George M. Harrison, president of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks; David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union; W. C. Doherty, president National Association of Letter Carriers; Charles J. MacGowan, president Boilermakers, Iron Shipbuilders and Helpers.

Irving Brown, AFL representative in Europe; George F. Delaney, AFL international representative; Henry Ruiz, AFL representative in Germany.

President Green said in a radio broadcast before sailing that the AFL is supporting the new free world federation because it will not be tainted by any Communist or Fascist membership.

Labor organizations from more than 40 nations with over 50,000,000 members have accepted invitations to the founding meetings, which will run two weeks.

The meetings are expected to bring to full realization a goal toward which the AFL and its 8,000,000 members have been striving since the end of World War II. The AFL opposed the dissolution of the old International Federation of Trade Unions in 1945 and refused to join the World Federation of Trade Unions on the grounds that it was Communist dominated. Time proved the accuracy of the AFL's position.

Bon Voyage Luncheon

President Green and Secretary Meany were wished a bon voyage to London by a delegation of British trade unionists who were entertained by top AFL officials at a luncheon during the Britishers' stop in Washington on a reciprocity tour.

The good wishes were expressed by William E. Jones, Yorkshire area secretary of the British Mine Workers and chairman of the visiting group of visitors.

"I hope you'll be able to make the work you do (in London) as successful as you've done with your own organization in your own country," Mr. Jones said. "We are very anxious to establish the peace of the world. The organized workers of the world can be helpful but their background must be a democratic background."

Mr. Jones' remarks were a response to a welcome from Mr. Meany. The AFL international union presidents executive council members also attended the affair.

British guests and their unions were:

George I. Brinham, Woodworkers; William Cotter, Painters; George H. Stanway, Transport and General Workers; Frederick C. Fitzpatrick, Amalgamated Engineering Union; Leonard Green, Heating Engineers; William Whitehead, Union of Municipal Workers; William E. Jones, Miners; Thomas McKinley, Miners' leaders; Charles Schofield, Cotton Spinners and Doublers; Harry Douglass, Printers; Robert Harie, British Trades Union Congress.

DiGiorgio Strike May Bring Farms Under Labor Laws

Washington.—The National Farm Labor Union of the AFL said that the two-year-old strike against the DiGiorgio Fruit Corp. in California may bring legislation in the next session of Congress to bring workers on such large farms under the federal labor relations and minimum wage laws.

Representative J. M. Bailey of West Virginia, chairman of a House subcommittee now conducting public hearings on the strike at Bakersfield, Calif., said that the DiGiorgio settlement had refused his offer to arbitrate the dispute with the CIO, since "and the only remedy was legislation to bring workers on large farms under the labor relations and minimum wage laws."

Mr. Bailey indicated at the conclusion of his hearings that the House Labor Committee would sponsor such legislation at the next session of Congress.

The members of Congress heard both sides of the strike, which the AFL union called in October, 1947, to raise wages and establish satisfactory working conditions. Testifying for the union were Farm Labor Union President H. L. Mitchell; Hank Hall, the union's representative and one of the union; Ernesto Galarza, union research director; and Norris Price, union member who was the object of an attempted assassination, and other union members.

T-H Crumbles Under Court, Board Fights

Labor Law Is Bringing Chaos to the Building Trades Industry

Washington.—Administration of the Taft-Hartley law in the building trades industry is crumbling down into a chaotic mass under conflicting federal court decisions and an inconclusive battle among National Labor Relations Board members and General Counsel Robert N. Denham.

Daniel W. Tracy, president of the AFL International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and the AFL Building Construction Trades Department have focused attention on the situation which has knotted the labor relations of the building industry into such a snarl that Taft-Hartley administration actually is seriously interfering with construction work.

Mr. Tracy pointed to a decision by the U. S. Court of Appeals for the 10th District, Denver, Colorado, ruling that small building trades jobs are not subject to the Taft-Hartley Act, as indicative of the conflict between the labor board and its jurisdiction in the building trades.

"I welcome the decision holding that small building trades jobs are not subject to the Taft-Hartley Act," Mr. Tracy said. "The decision confirmed the position which the IBEW has taken from the effective date of the act. The decision might prove helpful in resolving the internal battle between General Counsel Denham and the NLRB over the question of jurisdiction."

The case involved Groneman & Co. and IBEW Local 354. The company sued the union for damages for refusing to cross a picket line at a school building construction job in Provo, Utah, where nonunion electricians were employed.

The court ruled that "Groneman is operating a purely local business in no wise connected with anyone engaged in commerce" and further that the operations did not "affect" commerce within the meaning of the act. It dismissed the suit against the IBEW.

The Building Trader Department filed a brief with the labor board protesting against the delay in holding representation elections in shop elections in the industry and against decisions imperiling the union shop and the long-established relations in the industry.

The department said that if the board pursues its present policy with respect to jurisdictional disputes it completely stifle building construction in this country.

The board was asked to take action under the Taft-Hartley jurisdictional act to wipe out this injustice and uncertainty. Labor Board spokesmen said the petition is under consideration by the board.

"For years and some three months since the passage of the act no way has been found by the board or general counsel to grant to the AFL unions the privileges that attach to a representation or union authorization certification," the building trades department said.

"If the board takes the position that the validity of the union security agreement is conditioned upon the board holding a union shop representation election and the board either refuses or is unable to hold a union shop election, then the act is discriminatory and violative of the 5th Amendment of the Constitution," the department said.

SHE'S A CO-OP!

Washington. — Mrs. Eugenia Anderson, a member of a cooperative at Red Wing, Minn., who has just been appointed U. S. ambassador to Denmark, lunched with national officials of the Cooperatives League before leaving for her assignment to the small country where cooperatives are the important part of economic life.

South Kicks Off 1950 Organizing Campaign

Washington. — Thirteen Southern states planned to kick off the AFL's 1950 organizing drive to add 2,000,000 new members and rally liberal forces for the congressional elections at a meeting set for New Orleans on Dec. 3 and 4.

Harry O'Reilly, AFL director of organization, announced that organizers from all the states, state federation presidents and secretaries, and others have been invited to the two-day session to hear Joseph D. Keenan, director of AFL Labor's League for Political Education; J. M. Orenburg, secretary-treasurer of the AFL Union Label Trades Department; representatives of the general counsel and insurance department, and other speakers.

"The meeting is called to implement the policy expressed by the American Federation of Labor in declaring the year 1950 as the memorial year in the election of Congressmen and the launching of a special organizing campaign to enroll one million new members for the AFL in 1950," Mr. O'Reilly said.

He said the New Orleans rally is the first of a series of six to be held in the next few months in various sections of the country to set up programs and exchange ideas for the statewide drives to be made by state federations of labor.

States to be represented at New Orleans are North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

The official program provides for full-dress discussion of organizing, political education, effects of the Taft-Hartley law, and social security and pensions.

Mr. O'Reilly and Mr. Ornburn will speak in connection with the organizing discussion. The Union Label Trades Department's motion picture of the annual Union Industries Show will be shown.

The New Orleans conclave is expected to set a pattern for the other regional meetings to follow and provide a guide for the separate Gompers Memorial campaign meetings to be held by each state federation.

QUITS WFTU

Vienna.—The Austrian Federation of Labor has withdrawn from the Communist-dominated World Federation of Trade Unions to join the new anti-communist international labor group to be set up at London.

President Approves AFL Flag Day Plans To Show Loyalty

Washington. — President Truman endorsed the AFL's plans for a mammoth Flag Day celebration on June 14, 1950, on the Washington Monument grounds as "enthusiastic demonstration of faith on the part of those who serve in government."

The AFL proposal, made by the Government Employes Council, was approved by the 68th convention in St. Paul, was outlined to Mr. Truman in a White House visit by AFL President William Green, Frank Coleman, secretary-treasurer of the Maryland-District of Columbia Federation of Labor, and Tom Walters, operators director of the Government Employes Council.

Mr. Truman told the AFL trio that he had taken part in similar flag day celebrations many years ago and that he personally would attend the AFL program if it is possible.

The governments of the United States and the several states cannot possibly be any stronger under attacks of those who would continue to wage the so-called cold war than the faith of those men and women who in high stations of trust help to form the task of operating those governments," the AFL convention said.

Issue Call For State Organizing Rallies

Washington.—AFL President William Green and Secretary-Treasurer George Meany have issued an official call to officers of all state federations of labor calling upon them to hold statewide organizational rallies during January to start the AFL Second Gompers Memorial Organizing Campaign to gain one million members in 1950.

Following is the program of action for all 8,000,000 AFL members to obtain a million recruits:

To the Officers of State Federations of Labor:

The 68th Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor, which was held at St. Paul, Minn., beginning October 3, 1949, decided and directed that a campaign be launched in January, 1950, having for its purpose the organization of one million new members.

This decision of the convention was positive and unanimous. In order to achieve this goal and to accomplish this purpose, the convention directed that state federations of labor hold full and complete statewide organization rallies during the month of January, 1950, for the purpose of launching an intensive organization campaign. The convention further directed that the statewide organization rallies which will be held during the month of January, 1950, for the purpose of launching the campaign of labor, adopt a program of local and district rallies to be held subsequent to the state rallies, and that the state rallies be followed by conferences in district, county and precinct, organizational campaigns among all types of wage earners in every section of the continent.

Because of the importance of this plan and purpose, we deem it our official duty to call upon the officers and members of all state federations of labor to proceed to carry out the decision of the convention by arranging for the holding of statewide organizational rallies on dates which will be convenient and accommodating during the month of January. We urge that all these rallies, detailed plans be formulated as directed by the convention, for the purpose of launching an aggressive and militant organizational campaign.

The organizational campaign should be launched and carried forward in a comprehensive and aggressive way. It should be given the enthusiastic, full and complete support of each and every member of the American Federation of Labor within each state. We can only succeed in carrying out the instructions of the St. Paul convention to organize one million new members into the American Federation of Labor by carrying the message to the unorganized workers in the different cities, towns and sections of each state.

In order to assist and help in making the campaign a success, the American Federation of Labor will place the organizational staff of the American Federation of Labor and of all national and international unions to be called upon to cooperate fully with the state federations of labor in formulating and carrying out their organizing programs. Be assured that these international unions will respond to the call and will help.

We respectfully call upon the officers of state federations of labor to take steps immediately to carry out these specific instructions and recommendations of the St. Paul convention of the American Federation of Labor. Arrange to hold your statewide rallies during the month of January on dates which will be convenient. Follow up these rallies by arranging for the holding of local and district rallies for the express purpose of inaugurating in every section of the state a successful, aggressive organizing campaign.

Please report to our office here in Washington the steps you will take to carry out the decision of the St. Paul convention as herein set forth, and the dates on which you will arrange to hold "full and complete statewide organizational rallies during the month of January, 1950, to launch this vigorous and militant campaign" for the organization of ONE MILLION NEW MEMBERS IN 1950.

Garment Workers Name Elder As Director of Officers School

Washington. — The International Ladies' Garment Workers Union of the AFL announced the appointment of Arthur A. Elder, Midwest director of the Workers' Education Bureau of the AFL, as the director of the union's newly-established Officers' Training School—the first of its kind in the world.

Mr. Elder will assume his new duties on Jan. 1 with the union turning over an entire floor of its headquarters building in New York for use of the training school. Classes will begin soon thereafter.

The school is open to members of the union 21 to 26 years old interested in becoming full-time officials and representatives. Tuition is free and every man and woman completing the course is guaranteed a job by the ILGWU.

The course of instruction calls for 3 months of training in such academic subjects such as economics, labor relations and law; union organization, history of labor, and 4 months of practical field work such as participation in collective bargaining negotiations and getting familiar with shop work and practices.

Initial enrollment is expected to run 40 students. These will be selected by the education committee of the union board of trustees.

The school is expected to cost $100,000 the first year.

New World Body Must Be 'Free'

By WILLIAM GREEN
President American Federation of Labor

Washington.—I am sailing for London with a delegation from the American Federation of Labor to attend a world labor conference which will meet to establish a new international peace and economic progress.

The purpose of the conference is to establish a new world congress of free trade union organizations. We expect to have delegates from labor organizations of 40 nations representing more than 50,000,000 members.

In emphasizing the word "free" in connection with the new world organization, I want to make it crystal clear that it will not be dominated by any Communist or Fascist membership. We want no labor leader or totalitarian government labor cannot be free or democratic. We are convinced that it is time for free labor, as far as it can be, band together to combat the totalitarian menace to the freedom of workers. That will be one of the foremost objectives of the new world labor body.

By following this basic policy, the new federations of free labor organizations can effectively promote a program of better living standards, social justice, broadening of human freedom and lasting peace throughout the world. That is labor's great hope for the future.